AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 41, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate having a substrate surface;

a seedlayer structure overlying the substrate surface;

a magnetic material layer on the seedlayer structure, the magnetic material layer having a C-axis tilted at about a first angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and having a magnetic easy axis oriented at a second angle with respect to the axis perpendicular to the substrate surface; and

a soft magnetic underlayer between the substrate and the seedlayer structure.

2. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the seedlayer structure includes crystallographic texture tilted with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and acts as a template for epitaxial growth.

3. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the first angle is in the range of about 25° to about 55°.

4. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the second angle is between about 30° to about 60°.

5. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the magnetic material layer is formed of a material with uniaxial anisotropy.

6. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the magnetic material layer is formed of a material with coercivity greater than 2000 Oe.

7. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 6 wherein the magnetic material layer is formed of a Co alloy.

8. (Previously Presented) A magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate having a substrate surface;

a seedlayer structure overlying the substrate surface; and

a magnetic material layer on the seedlayer structure, the magnetic material layer having a C-axis tilted at about a first angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and having a magnetic easy axis oriented at a second angle with respect to the axis perpendicular to the substrate surface;

wherein the seedlayer structure comprises:

a first seedlayer that defines a tilted grain structure; and

a second seedlayer overlying the first seedlayer that creates a preferred crystallographic texture and provides a template for epitaxial growth of the magnetic material layer.

9. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 8 wherein the first seedlayer is formed from Ta.

10. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 8 wherein the second seedlayer is formed from Ru.

11. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 8 wherein the magnetic material layer is formed from a Co alloy.

12. Canceled.

13. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the magnetic material layer has a columnar structure oriented generally perpendicular to the substrate surface.

14. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the magnetic material layer has a columnar structure oriented generally tilted relative to the substrate surface.

15. (Original) The magnetic storage medium of claim 1 wherein the C-axis of the magnetic material layer is organized with azimuthal symmetry.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A rigid thin film magnetic storage medium for use in a data storage device having a surface normal, the thin film magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate;

a magnetic material layer;

a seedlayer structure underlying the magnetic material layer; and

a soft magnetic underlayer between the substrate and the seedlayer structure;

wherein the magnetic material layer comprises:

a C-axis; and

a uniaxial magnetic easy axis tilted with respect to surface normal.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 18 wherein the magnetic material layer has a tilted grain structure.

21. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 18 wherein the magnetic easy axis is organized with azimuthal symmetry.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A rigid thin film magnetic storage medium for use in a data storage device having a surface normal, the thin film magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate; and

a magnetic material layer, the magnetic material layer comprising:

a C-axis, wherein the C-axis is tilted between about 25° and about 55° with respect to surface normal; and

a uniaxial magnetic easy axis tilted and the magnetic easy axis is tilted between about 30° and about 60° with respect to surface normal.

25. Canceled.

26. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 18 wherein the magnetic material layer is grown with epitaxy on the seedlayer structure.

27. (Previously Presented) A rigid thin film magnetic storage medium for use in a data storage device having a surface normal, the thin film magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate;

a magnetic material layer; and

a seedlayer structure underlying the magnetic material layer, the seedlayer structure comprising:

a first seedlayer overlying the substrate that defines a tilted columnar structure; and

a second seedlayer overlying the first seedlayer that defines a tilted crystalline structure and provides a template for expitaxial growth of the magnetic material layer;

wherein the magnetic material layer comprises:

a C-axis; and

a uniaxial magnetic easy axis tilted with respect to surface normal.

28. (Original) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 27 wherein the first seedlayer is Ta.

29. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 27 wherein the second seedlayer is Ru.

30. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 27 wherein the magnetic thin film is CoPtCr.

31. (Previously Presented) The rigid thin film magnetic storage medium of claim 27 and further comprising a soft magnetic underlayer between the substrate and the seedlayer structure.

32 - 40. Canceled.

41. (Currently Amended) A magnetic storage medium comprising:

a substrate having a substrate surface;

a seedlayer structure overlying the substrate surface, wherein the seedlayer structure includes crystallographic texture tilted with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and acts as a template for epitaxial growth; and

a magnetic material layer on the seedlayer structure, the magnetic material layer having a C-axis tilted at about a first angle with respect to an axis perpendicular to the substrate surface and having a magnetic easy axis oriented at a second angle with respect to the axis perpendicular to the substrate surface, wherein the magnetic material layer has a columnar structure oriented ~~generally perpendicular~~ about 90° to the substrate surface.